



Transportation Update

March 2002

Alameda County Projects go to California Transportation Commission for Approval

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) will act on the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) on April 4th. The CMA has included over \$100 million in projects for the portion of the STIP reserved for county priorities. These projects include:

- AC Transit projects totaling \$16.5 million -- facility upgrades, communications systems, Bus Rapid Transit analysis Phase 2, bus acquisition, and wheelchair securement retrofit
- BART projects totaling \$12.5 million -- fare collection machine modernization, subway repair, platform tile replacement, transit vehicle rehabilitation
- \$22.2 million for the BART Oakland Airport Connector
- \$4 million for a new facility for Wheels
- \$1.4 million for Vasco Rd. safety improvements
- Various local road improvements in Dublin, Emeryville, Oakland and Alameda totaling \$10.6 million
- Highway noise barriers in Oakland, Berkeley, San Leandro and Livermore totaling \$10 million
- \$3 million for the Emeryville Amtrak station
- \$3.3 million for Union City's intermodal center at the BART station
- \$10 million for improvements at the Mission Blvd. Interchange with I-880

- \$1.3 million for engineering studies of carpool lane improvements approaching the Dumbarton Bridge
- \$6.8 million for railroad grade separations in Fremont
- \$1.3 million for a carpool lane extension on I-80 near the Bay Bridge
- \$150,000 for a park adjacent to I-80 in Albany

In addition to the County Share component of the STIP, the CTC will act on the interregional funding program that includes funding for the Emeryville Amtrak station, a siding in the Livermore Valley for the Altamont Commuter Express, and additional parking at the Centerville rail station in Fremont and may include additional funding for the BART Oakland Airport Connector.

While substantial new funding will be approved by the CTC, due to the economy, projects will receive this funding in later years than requested. For further information please contact the CMA offices.

Air Quality and Transportation

An air quality "conformity lapse" in the Bay Area occurred on January 21, 2002. This lapse has delayed several transportation projects in Alameda County and the Bay Area. On March 18th the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration approved the conformity determination for the Bay Area, ending the conformity lapse. Several environmental groups have sought a stay of the federal approval. If the stay is granted, further

project delays are possible. The January newsletter lists the Alameda County projects affected. For further information, please contact the CMA offices.

CMA Board Considers Draft Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program

At its March meeting, the CMA reviewed a draft program for the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA). A four-dollar per vehicle annual registration fee is levied by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to fund this program. The CMA administers 40% of the funds received in Alameda County. The draft 2002-03 program, which totals \$2.4 million, includes:

- Bike projects in Berkeley, Emeryville, Livermore, Hayward and Oakland
- Bus access at Coliseum BART
- The regional ridesharing program
- Ridesharing programs in Berkeley and Pleasanton
- Signal interconnection in San Leandro
- A CNG facility in Union City
- AC Transit's student bus pass program
- The CMA's Guaranteed Ride Home program
- AC Transit's transit information project

For further information, please contact the CMA offices.

Legislation

AB 2535 (Diaz). This bill would require Caltrans to prepare the annual highway congestion monitoring report for the Bay Area. The funding and preparation of this report is included in the CMA's adopted 2002 Legislative Program. The CMA supports this bill.

AB 2809 (Longville) and SB 10 (Sher) 3rd Extraordinary Session. The Board of Equalization has made an interpretation of a bill from last year that substantially reduces funding for transit. Last month's newsletter listed the impact on Alameda County transit operators. These bills would restore the lost funding by clarifying the Legislature's intent with regard to last year's bill that provided a diesel fuel sales tax exemption for farming activities. The CMA supports these two bills.

Deadlines to Note

Federal Funding Programs – Delivery Deadlines

Projects programmed with Cycle II TEA-21 funds must have obligated these funds by September 30, 2002. Failure to comply with this deadline could result in the loss of funds programmed to the project. Sponsors with projects that may have problems with this deadline should contact CMA staff immediately.

Upcoming Meetings

April	2	CMA Technical Advisory Committee
	3/4	CTC (Sacramento)
	8	CMA Administration & Legislation Committee
	8	CMA Plans & Programs Committee
	11	San Pablo Ave Policy Advisory Committee
	12	Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Board
	15	I-880 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
	23	I-580 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
	25	CMA Board Meeting
May	7	CMA Technical Advisory Committee

- 13 *CMA Administration & Legislation Committee*
- 13 *CMA Plans & Programs Committee*
- tbd I-580 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee*
- tbd I-680 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee*
- 20 *Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Board*
- 23 *CMA Board Meeting*

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